

AN ENGINEER'S STORY

Why the Veteran Driver Stopped Drinking After Saving President's Special.

BY FRANK FILSON.

"Did you see that old, gray-headed fellow that went into the cab of No. 54?" asked the engineer. "That's Joe Egan. How old should you say he was, now? Fifty-five? Joe's seventy-two, come next July, friend, and in spite of his age, there isn't a man that can handle his engine better than Joe, or that's more looked up to by the men and better thought of by the company. And it must be high on thirty years since what I'm going to tell you happened to Joe.

"Thirty years ago—that brings us back to the early eighties, don't it? The companies wasn't so particular in those days as what they are now. Nowadays, if a man wants a drop before going on duty he's got to take the bottle out of his pocket when nobody ain't watching him, and eat a cough drop afterwards, or else, likely as not, he'll be hunting a job next morning. But in the times I'm speaking of, the company didn't care whether a man drank or not, as long as he looked sober, and spoke sober, and brought his train in on time. And, drunk or sober, Joe never made any mistakes with his engine.

"Still, there wasn't many nights when he didn't come in to Tapham a little soaked, and it got to the superintendent's ears. The company didn't want to get rid of Joe, for he was a pretty steady man, and although the new ideas about drinking had just begun to come into use, still, everybody made excuses for Joe. You see, he'd been through the fire and done what it ain't given to many men to have to do.

"Joe lived by the line, about half a mile this side of Tapham, in a little brick house situated just where the trestle across the Mohegan begins to rise out of the swamp lands. He used to take his engine, with eight cars attached to it, over it on the return trip and run her into Tapham on the stroke of nine. Then he'd walk home till his turn of duty came again. It was a ticklish spot, because the 8:07 from Waynesboro had the right of way a few minutes after the Tapham local got past.

"One night Joe was behind time. It wasn't his fault, I guess; anyway, just as he approached the trestle he heard the whistle of the 8:07. You know



"As I'm a Man, I Saw Nelly on the Line Again."

traffic was inconsiderable in those days and, whereas they'd have held her now, at that time one just took chances. It wasn't much of a risk Joe saw that he could make the trestle, with a half minute to spare—only, just as he opened up, he saw his little girl on the line; just a speck of white in the night. Well, you can guess the rest. It was one life against a hundred, and Joe paid. The company buried her and voted him five hundred dollars; and that's why the superintendent didn't look too close into Joe's drinking habits. I didn't mention that the shock drove the mother crazy, did I? She recovered in time—after what I'm going to tell you had happened—and they're living in Tapham now, although they never had another child.

"It must have been two years after the accident. Joe had been going from bad to worse. He was drunk nearly every night, and once or twice if it hadn't been for me—I was his fireman then—there'd have been another and worse accident. I used to talk to Joe about it, but of course that didn't do no good. At last I saw that it would be only a matter of weeks until a smash occurred, and I resolved to speak to the superintendent myself.

"It was the night after I'd come to that decision that Joe was taking his engine, as usual, into Tapham. There were only three cars that night, but they held the president of the road and his wife and daughters, and a party of guests. They were running through to celebrate the opening of some branch line or other. I spoke to Joe and he climbed into the cab.

"Joe, I said, 'give me that stuff I see sticking out of your pocket. They'll come along and shake hands with you at the end, sure as fate, and that'll be your finish. Hand it over, Joe.'

"He was in an ugly mood that night and swore at me. The more I tried to put reason into his head the uglier he grew. He didn't care if the train went to smash and the president and directors, too, he said. He cursed

them all, from Mr. Hartman down to the local traffic manager, Bill Swayne, who'd always been Joe's friend and stood by him. As for there wasn't no use arguing with a man in that condition, and he was a match for two of me, and fighting would only have made things worse, I couldn't do nothing but stand by and hope for the best. And I wasn't altogether sorry, because it saved me from having to speak to Mr. Hitchens, the superintendent, myself.

"We made the run on good time. Joe was a good driver, however much he had been drinking, and I had seen him taking more than a few swigs at that bottle he carried. We weren't more than half a minute to the bad when the grade began to dip down into the mud flats five miles this side of the trestle. Joe put on speed here, meaning to slow up before we started on the upgrade toward the trestle again. I could see the line of trees across the river soon.

"'Slow her down, Joe!' I yelled at him, and he turned and cursed me and looked out on the line and began muttering something. There wasn't much danger, but I knew if Joe made the trestle at thirty miles he wouldn't last overnight as a driver for the Chesapeake and Excelsior. Then, all at once, he staggered back into the cab and a second later the brakes were down and the train screeched and whined as it came to a halt fifty feet from where the trestle begins.

"'Joe!' I yelled, but his face was whiter than paper. 'Bill Jones,' he said slowly, turning his eyes on mine, 'as I'm a man I saw Nelly on the line again!'

"'I looked out, I couldn't see nothing. 'You're dreaming, Joe,' I said. But he wouldn't touch the throttle again; just stood rocking and moaning and muttering, 'Nelly!' Then I thought maybe some other kid had got under the wheels.

"A minute later the president was climbing along the footboard, with some of his guests. I wanted to save Joe. I told them he had seen something on the line. They looked, the whole party of them, but they couldn't find nothing. When they came back I couldn't keep them from seeing him no longer, and one look was enough. Joe was blind drunk—and in charge of the president's train.

"'Can you take her into Tapham?' he asked me. I could, but at the words Joe was at me like a madman. He would have been as much as my life was worth to try. And nobody wanted to tackle a drunken giant like Joe. So, as it was only half a mile, and the line would be clear for an hour to come, the whole party started to foot it into town.

"Well, friend, the trestle was down. There was a piece twenty yards long ripped clean out of the middle by the freights. That's all. If Joe had run that train onto the trestle the whole party would have gone sheer into Kingdom Come. No, I'm not drawing any conclusions—only, that's how it came that Joe quit drinking and still drives his engine."

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Why He Is Known.

The class in ancient history was reciting. "Now, Harry, can you tell me who Nebuchadnezzar was?" asked the teacher. "Nebuchadnezzar," answered the boy, right off the bat, "was the greatest of the Babylonian kings, and for his connection with the Hebrews he got a write-up in the Bible."

Brazil's Valuable Water Power.

Fortunately for Brazil, without any coal of much value, there is water power to be found in almost every state in the republic, and the large power plants already installed for some years have been obliged to increase their voltage to meet the growing demands for light and power.

Too Transparent a Boast.

When a man pretends that he doesn't care what the papers say about him it is a sign that they are not giving him much praise.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss.
County of Livingston,)

Town of Dwight,
Office of Town Supervisor.

The following is a statement by R. D. Gregg, Supervisor of the town of Dwight, in the County and State aforesaid, of the amount of public funds received and expended by him during the fiscal year just closed, ending on the 25th day of March, 1913, showing the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of said fiscal year, the amount of public funds received and from what sources received, and the amount of public funds expended and for what purpose expended, during said fiscal year, ending as aforesaid.

The said R. D. Gregg, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that the following statement by him subscribed, is a correct statement of the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year above stated, the amount of public funds received, and the sources from which received, and the amount expended and purpose for which expended, as set forth in said statement.

R. D. GREGG.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of March, 1913.

GEORGE T. DONIGAN,
Notary Public.

Date	Received	Amount
	Amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year commencing the 26th day of March, 1912.	\$1013.69
	General Fund.	\$1005.92
	Dog Tax Fund.	674.96
1912	Received from	\$1580.88
Oct. 3	County Treasurer, De-	

Date	Expended	Amount
1912	Mar. 26 R. D. Gregg, approving collector's bond.	2.50
	Geo. S. Baker, approving collector's bond.	2.50
	R. E. Davis, 10 meetings road commissioners.	20.00
	Conrad Simantel, 10 meetings road commissioners.	20.00
	A. B. Terwilliger, 10 meetings road commissioners.	20.00
	Geo. S. Baker, 10 meetings road commissioners.	20.00
	Geo. S. Baker, 98 orders.	9.80
	Geo. S. Baker, posting notices election.	1.50
	R. D. Gregg, posting sample ballots and instructions.	1.50
	Geo. S. Baker, auditing.	1.50
	R. D. Gregg, auditing.	1.50
	W. B. Brown, auditing.	1.50
	W. C. Bartholic, auditing.	1.50
	James Kelagher, auditing.	1.50
	R. D. Gregg, overseer of poor.	36.00
	R. E. Davis, Canada thistle commissioner.	5.00
	Conrad Simantel, Canada thistle commissioner.	5.00
	A. B. Terwilliger, Canada thistle commissioner.	5.00
	Geo. S. Baker, 19 orders on Supervisor.	1.90
Apr. 3	S. H. Boyer, Judge of election, Precinct No. 1.	6.00
	B. M. Chubb, Judge of election, Precinct No. 1.	6.00
	J. B. Christman, Judge of election, Precinct No. 1.	6.00
	F. J. Hohenshell, clerk of election, Precinct No. 1.	6.00
	W. J. Jeffries, clerk of election, Precinct No. 1.	6.00
	Geo. S. Baker, clerk of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	Frank Snyder, Judge of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	C. E. Welch, Judge of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	C. H. Thompson, clerk of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	W. C. Bartholic, clerk of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	C. W. Ring, clerk of election, Precinct No. 2.	6.00
	John Dieter, use of Opera House.	10.00
	W. H. Lister, putting up and taking down booths.	3.00
	R. D. Gregg, posting.	1.50
	Geo. S. Baker, posting.	1.50
	R. D. Gregg, moderator.	3.00
	Geo. S. Baker, clerk town meeting.	3.00
	R. D. Gregg, canvassing election returns.	3.00
	Geo. S. Baker, canvassing election returns.	3.00
	James Kelagher, canvassing election returns.	3.00
	Patsy Burns, canvassing election returns.	3.00
	Dwight Star and Herald, printing election notices and annual reports of officers.	70.25
	Geo. S. Baker, 27 orders on Supervisor.	2.70
May 24	E. E. Kirkendall, 7 sheep killed.	35.00
	Fred Unger, witness.	.50
	Claude Harvey, witness fee.	.50
May 28	Dwight Star and Herald, 10 order books.	6.00
June 1	C. M. Baker, work on town cemetery.	50.00
June 11	Dwight Star and Herald, notices road commissioner.	1.20
July 5	James Kelagher, assessing.	350.00
Aug. 10	C. M. Baker, work on town cemetery.	150.00
Sept 3	R. D. Gregg, 6 commissioners meetings.	12.00
	A. B. Terwilliger, 6 commissioners meetings.	12.00
	Conrad Simantel, 6 commissioners meetings.	12.00
	Geo. S. Baker, 6 commissioners meetings.	12.00
	W. C. Bartholic, auditing.	1.50
	James Kelagher, auditing.	1.50
	R. D. Gregg, auditing.	1.50
	Geo. S. Baker, auditing.	1.50
	Geo. S. Baker, orders issued.	6.50
1913	Jan. 29 Geo. S. Baker, approving collector's bond.	2.50

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss.
County of Livingston,)
Town of Dwight,
Office of Treasurer of Commissioners of Highways.

The following is a statement by Conrad Simantel, Treasurer of the Commissioners of Highways of the Town of Dwight in the County and State aforesaid, of the amount of public funds received and expended by him during the fiscal year just closed, ending on the 25th day of March, 1913, showing the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of said fiscal year, the amount of public funds received and from what sources received, the amount of public funds expended and for what purpose expended, during said fiscal year, ending as aforesaid.

The said Conrad Simantel, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that the following statement by him subscribed, is a correct statement of the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year above stated, the amount of public funds received, and the sources from which received, and the amount expended and purpose for which expended, as set forth in said statement.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of March, 1913.

CLARA A. WRIGHT,
Notary Public.

Date	Received	Amount
	Amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year commencing the 25th day of March, 1912.	\$2865.14
1912	Nov. 11 Received from County Treasurer, Delinquent Taxes.	707.94
Dec. 6	Received from John M. Burger, tiling and outlet.	37.35
	Received from John R. Oughton, tiling and outlet.	134.97
1913	Jan. 27 Received from Fred Zabel, tool shed.	20.00
Mar. 11	Received from Mrs. Moderswell, share tiling.	25.00
	Received from Samuel Goodspeed, share out of Wg. of 34.	28.22
	Received from Dorber, extra tiling.	13.24
	Received from Jos. M. Burnham, tiling.	17.70
	Received from Edw. Christman, dif. between 4 in. and 5 in. tile.	4.00
	Received from Chris Paulsen, dif. in tile.	5.73
	Received from Fred Unger, witness.	.50
	Received from Claude Harvey, witness fee.	.50
	Received from Paul Beler, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from F. G. McConnell, road dragging.	2.50
	Received from Joe Wright, road dragging.	11.50
	Received from Hans Hansen, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from R. E. Davis, overseer's commission.	42.73
	Received from N. K. Nelson, road dragging.	2.50
	Received from N. Jacobsgaard, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from Charles Super, plowing ditch and hauling.	6.00
	Received from Charles Super, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from Thomas Thorson, culvert work.	3.00
	Received from Chris Paulsen, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from Thomas Thorson, tiling.	61.05
	Received from Emil Fieldman, road dragging.	8.80
	Received from Frank Sondergaard, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from Peter Reimer, cutting trees.	4.00
	Received from Thomas Thorson, tiling E. Mazon avenue.	24.00
June 10	Geo. Belswanger, hauling tile, filling and grading.	56.50
	Received from A. M. Lower, road dragging.	5.00
	Received from John Dooley, road dragging.	2.50
	Received from Thomas Thorson, tiling northeast R. R.	88.50
	Received from Township Supply Company, Western grader.	5.00
	Received from Joe Wright, road dragging and cleaning.	8.00
	Received from Wm. Kelch, grading.	5.00
	Received from Tony Miller, tiling Paulsen road.	40.00
July 5	3 Chas. Belswanger, grading E. Corp. Line.	48.00

Total amount expended, \$1004.35

Mar. 25 Balance on hand—

General Fund.....\$476.73

Dog Tax Fund.....58.96

There is also on hand deposited in the First National Bank of Dwight, one note for the sum of Four Thousand (\$4000.00) Dollars, belonging to the Township of Dwight, signed by John M. Conley and Austin Gibson as executor of the estate of Mary Conley, deceased, bearing five per cent annual interest, secured by trust deed on the

Wg. of the SE 1/4 and the E 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 36 in Township 30, North, Range 7, East of the 3rd P. M. in Livingston County, Illinois.

Also one note for the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, belonging to the Township of Dwight, signed by William Christesen, bearing five per cent annual interest secured by trust deed on the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 1, Township 28, North, Range 9, East of the 3rd P. M. in Ford County, Illinois.

Also one note for the sum of One Thousand (\$1000.00) Dollars, belonging to the Township of Dwight, signed by William J. Ribordy, bearing five per cent annual interest secured by a trust deed on the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 1, Township 28, North, Range 9, East of the 3rd P. M. in Ford County, Illinois.

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